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INFO RUEHAS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY 1133

RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 0466

RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 5763

RUFHRA/AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY 3028

RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 4358

RUFHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 1654

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CONTROLS~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ TUNIS 12622

ALSO FOR NEA/RA

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

BODY

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, AL, EG, FR, IL, TU, TS

SUBJECT: QADHAFI BACK IN THE CHINA SHOP: IN ADDRESS

- BEFORE CHAMBER HE BLASTS THE WEST,

- EMBARRASSES GOT

REF: TUNIS 12578

1. C O N F I D E N T I A L - ENTIRE TEXT.

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SUMMARY  
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2. GOT'S WORSE FEARS CAME TO PASS WHEN QADHAFI DELIVERED A VIRULENT ANTI-WESTERN DIATRIBE BEFORE THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES DECEMBER 9. QADHAFI BLAMED AMERICA, "THE MASTER OF LIES", FOR BLOCKING ALGERIAN/LIBYAN UNITY AND SEEKING TO DESTROY THE ARABS. HE DEMANDED REPARATIONS FROM FRANCE, ITALY, AND TURKEY FOR THE COLONIAL ERA AND LAMENTED THE SUBSERVIENCE OF ARAB STATES. HE PRAISED THE ATTITUDES OF TUNISIAN YOUTH BUT MADE LITTLE MENTION OF BEN ALI AND RECENT REFORMS. THE DEPUTIES WERE OFTEN ILL AT EASE WITH THE COLONEL'S RHETORIC, AND GOT CENSORED TV AND RADIO COVERAGE. RECOMMEND USG LODGE OFFICIAL PROTEST. END SUMMARY.

3. WITH MEMORY OF QADHAFI'S ANTI-WESTERN DIATRIBE LAST FEBRUARY AT SIDI SAKIET YOUSEF STILL FRESH, GOT TOOK PAINS THIS TIME TO LIMIT QADHAFI'S OPPORTUNITIES TO SPEAK DURING HIS ONGOING STATE VISIT (SEPTTEL). THE SPEECH BEFORE THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, WHICH WAS BROADCAST LIVE ON TV AND RADIO DECEMBER 9, WAS THE ONLY FORUM HE WAS GIVEN. (THE ONLY DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION GOT PERMITTED AT THE CHAMBER WAS THE DEAN OF THE COMMUNITY.) GOT'S WORSE FEARS CAME TO PASS, FOR QADHAFI DELIVERED A SPEECH EVERY BIT AS VIRULENT AS THE ONE AT SIDI SAKIET YOUSEF. (THE FOLLOWING IS BASED ON EMBOFFS' MONITORING TUNISIAN TV AND RADIO.)

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QADHAFI RIPS U.S.  
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4. AFTER WARNING THAT COLONIALISM CAN RETURN WHENEVER CONDITIONS PERMIT, QADHAFI LAUNCHED INTO A TIRADE AGAINST THE WEST WHERE AMERICA, "THE SEAT OF IGNORANCE AND THE MASTER OF LIES", WAS A FREQUENT TARGET. AMERICA, HE SAID, IS A NEGATIVE FORCE THAT WANTS TO CONQUER THE ARABS. AMERICA IS OPPOSED TO ARAB UNITY. "ALTHOUGH A DATE WAS SET FOR UNITY BETWEEN ALGERIA AND LIBYA, PRESIDENT REAGAN SAID "NO" AND UNITY DID NOT OCCUR". U.S. FORBIDS ANY POLICY DEPARTURES WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATIONS. HE RECOUNTED THE 1986 U.S. RAID ON LIBYA AND CHARGED THAT AMERICAN PLANES FLEW COVER FOR THE 1985 ISRAELI RAID ON PLO HEADQUARTERS AT HAMMAM CHOTT. HE CHARACTERIZED THE RECENT U.S. DECISION TO PROVIDE CLUSTER BOMBS AND OTHER WEAPONS TO ISRAEL AS AN EFFORT TO DESTROY THE ARABS. "IF THIS IS WHAT SOME MEAN BY AMERICA'S FRIENDSHIP, THEN NO THANKS!" BECAUSE OF LIBYA'S

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STRATEGIC POSITION AND POWER TO RESIST, THE U.S. CONSIDERS IT, NOT THE USSR, ENEMY NUMBER ONE. QADHAFI SUGGESTED THAT A COMMITTEE OF ACCOUNTANTS BE FORMED TO COMPARE THE ECONOMIC AID THAT TUNISIA RECEIVES FROM AMERICA WITH THE BENEFITS IT DERIVES FROM LIBYA.

5. BESIDES AMERICA, QADHAFI ALSO ATTACKED FRANCE, ITALY, AND TURKEY. HE CHARGED THAT FRANCE HAD KIDNAPPED THOUSANDS OF TUNISIANS JUST AS ITALY HAD LIBYANS. TURKEY HAD PERMITTED FOREIGN ENEMIES TO ATTACK NORTH AFRICA. REPARATIONS WERE DUE FROM ALL THREE. EUROPE SEES THE MAGHREB AS A MARKET TO WHICH IT CAN SELL PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED WITH NORTH AFRICAN RAW MATERIALS. THE MAGHREB MUST PRODUCE FOR ITSELF.

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THINLY VEILED CRITISM OF ARAB STATES  
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6. QADHAFI LAMENTED THAT IN THE ARAB WORLD THE SPIRIT OF THE BARDO TREATY PERSISTS (FYI. THE FRENCH-IMPOSED BARDO TREATY (1881) GAVE FRANCE RESPONSIBILITY FOR TUNISIA'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE. END FYI.) ARAB COUNTRIES DARE NOT HELP REVOLUTIONARIES IN NICARAGUA OR FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN PALESTINE. "THE ISRAELIS ARE AT EASE BEHIND THEIR BORDERS BECAUSE THEY KNOW THAT ARABS WILL INTERCEPT AND KILL THE FEDAYEEN FOR THEM." HE MOCKED PALESTINIAN CONCESSIONS IN RECOGNIZING ISRAEL AND ACCEPTING 242. "HAVE THESE ENDED THE PROBLEM?" "GOD HELP ANY ARAB WHO BELIEVES THE U.S. A FRIENDLY OR NEUTRAL," HE CONTINUED. THE BARDO TREATY MENTALITY, HE SAID, MUST BE TORN TO SHREDS.

7. QADHAFI RARELY MENTIONED PRESIDENT ZINE EL ABIDINE BEN ALI AND OFFERED SCANT PRAISE FOR TUNISIA'S INSTITUTIONS AND REFORMS. WHAT IS IMPORTANT SINCE THE 7TH NOVEMBER, HE SAID, IS THAT YOUNG PEOPLE, THE NEW GENERATION, ARE TALKING ABOUT THE FUTURE FOR THE FIRST TIME AND CARE ABOUT PALESTINIAN RIGHTS AND ARAB UNITY. HE DENIGRATED THE PROLIFERATION OF PARTIES IN PAKISTAN AND THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES IN ALGERIA (AND IMPLICITLY TUNISIA'S OWN

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PLURALIST SYSTEM). THE BEST WAY TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE, HE SAID, IS BY A SYSTEM OF JAMAHARIYYA AS EXIST IN LIBYA, THEREBY MAKING PARTIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS SUPERFLUOUS.

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ATMOSPHERICS  
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8. THROUGHOUT THE ONE HOUR 45 MINUTE ADDRESS QADHAFI SPOKE CALMLY. HE TAPPED THE PODIUM OCCASIONALLY TO STRESS A POINT BUT NEVER RAISED HIS TONE. THERE WERE VERY FEW OCCASIONS OF SPONTANEOUS APPLAUSE. THE MOST GENUINE OCCURED WHEN QADHAFI SAID THAT, JUDGING BY THE TRIBAL NAMES HE RECOGNIZED, THERE MUST BE A LOT OF LIBYANS ON THE RULING PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE. THE OTHER OCCURRED WHEN HE CRITICIZED THE VEILING OF WOMEN. AT OTHER TIMES, HOWEVER, THE DELEGATES WERE VISIBLY PAINED AND EMBARRASSED AS WHEN QADHAFI SAID, IN TOTAL EARNEST, THAT THE ARABS HAD NO SCIENTIFIC OR CULTURAL DEBTS TO THE WEST: "SHAKESPEARE, YOU KNOW, WAS REALLY AN ARAB: SHEIKH SPEER".

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SIMULTANEOUS CENSORSHIP  
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9. IN AN AWKWARD ATTEMPT TO DAMPEN QADHAFI'S MESSAGE GOT PRACTICED SIMULATANEOUS CENSORSHIP. TV COVERAGE WENT DEAD WHEN QADHAFI ACCUSED REAGAN OF BLOCKING ALGERIAN/LIBYAN UNITY. THE RADIO STARTED PLAYING MUSIC WHEN HE MENTIONED THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON TUNISIA. COVERAGE RESUMED AND WAS CUT OFF AGAIN INTERMITTENTLY THROUGHOUT THE ADDRESS. ONE HOUR THIRTY FIVE MINUTES INTO THE SPEECH, COMMANDER JALLOUD, WHO HAD BEEN SITTING NEXT TO PRIME MINISTER HEDI BACCOUCHE, WALKED UP AND GAVE QADHAFI A NOTE. THE COLONEL FINISHED TEN MINUTES LATER. AFTER THE CONCLUSION, THE TV ANNOUNCER ASKED VIEWERS TO EXCUSE THE "TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES" THAT HAD PLAGUED THE BROADCAST.

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CHARGE CALLS MFA  
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10. MIDWAY THROUGH THE SPEECH, CHARGE PHONED AMBASSADOR BOUZIANE, DIRECTOR FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, AT THE MFA TO CALL GOT ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT QADHAFI'S ATTACKS UPON THE USG COULD BE PROVOCATIVE IN AN ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH DEMONSTRATIONS MARKING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE PALESTINIAN INTIFADAH HAD ALREADY BEEN DIRECTED AT THE U.S. EMBASSY (REFTEL). CHARGE

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ALSO NOTED THAT AN OFFICIAL USG REACTION TO THE  
SPEECH MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING.

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COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION  
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11. THE GOT SHOWED BAD JUDGMENT IN ACCORDING QADHAFI  
A FORUM. NOW, DESPITE GOT PLEAS FOR A  
NON-CONTROVERSIAL SPEECH, QADHAFI HAS PERFORMED TRUE  
TO FORM. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS IT BE INSTRUCTED TO  
LODGE OFFICIAL PROTEST.

BROWN

ADMIN

END OF MESSAGE

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